

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/643,550	ITO, YOSHINORI
	Examiner	Art Unit
	William C. Choi	2873

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to amendment filed 12/21/2004.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.
3. The drawings filed on 19 August 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

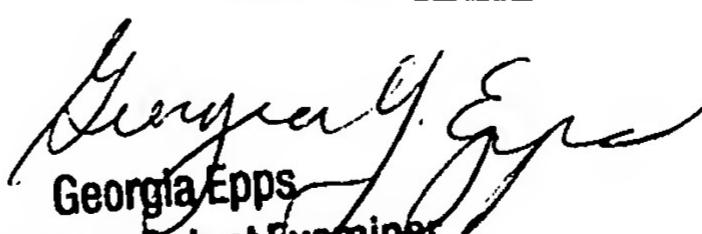
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.


 Georgia Epps
 Supervisory Patent Examiner
 Technology Center 2800
 Notice of Allowability

Allowed Claims: 1-20.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: none of the prior art either alone or in combination disclose or teach of the claimed combination of limitations to warrant a rejection under 35 USC 102 or 103.

Specifically, with respect to independent claim 1, none of the prior art alone or in combination disclose or teach of a zoom lens system comprising, in order from an object to image side: negative, positive and positive lens units as claimed, specifically wherein the second lens unit consists of, in order from the object to image side, a first positive lens element having an aspherical surface, and a cemented lens formed by cementing a second positive lens element and a negative lens element having an aspherical surface.

Specifically, with respect to independent claim 10, none of the prior art alone or in combination disclose or teach of a zoom lens system comprising, in order from an object to image side: negative, positive and positive lens units as claimed, specifically wherein the second lens unit consists of, in order from the object to image side, a first positive lens element having an aspherical surface, and a cemented lens formed by cementing a second positive lens element and a negative lens element having an aspherical surface in order from the object to image side and satisfying the claimed condition regarding aspherical surface distance and focal length.

Specifically, with respect to independent claim 12, none of the prior art alone or in combination disclose or teach of a zoom lens system comprising, in order from an object to image side: negative, positive and positive lens units as claimed, specifically wherein the second lens unit consists of, in order from the object to image side, a first positive lens, a second positive and a negative lens element having at least two aspherical surfaces and satisfying the claimed condition regarding aspherical surface distance and focal length.

Specifically, with respect to independent claim 14, none of the prior art alone or in combination disclose or teach of a zoom lens system comprising, in order from an object to image side: negative, positive and positive lens units as claimed, specifically wherein the first lens unit consists of two lens elements and the second lens unit consists of three lens elements, with two aspherical surfaces being provided on a convex and a concave face of two different lens elements in said three lens elements, respectively.

CONCLUSION

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William C. Choi whose telephone number is (571) 272-2324. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from about 9:00 am to 6 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Georgia Y. Epps can be reached on (571) 272-2328. The fax phone

number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

W .. C.
William Choi
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2873
March 10, 2005



Georgia Epps
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800